

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 OC-05

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SY-05

USSS-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCCT-01 OPR-02 A-01 FBO-02

PER-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 /088 W
----- 118084

O R 291205Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4625

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL UDORN

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI UDORN

CDR USSAG/7TH AF NKP

13TH AF CC CLARK AFB

13TH ADVON CC UDORN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 4627

BANGKOK ALSO FOR USAID/LAOS RESIDUAL STAFF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSW PINS PFOR PDIP LA US

SUBJ: DEVELOPMENTS IN VIENTIANE JUNE 29

SUMMARY: THERE WAS LITTLE CHANGE AT ANY OF OCCUPIED MISSION FACILITIES JUNE 29. FROM LONG CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN OFFICIALS, IT APPEARS THAT MAIN ISSUE IN CONNECTION WITH GSO COMPOUND IS PROTESTOR'S SUSPICIONS OF UNIVERSAL AMERICAN ENTERPRISES, INC., WHICH HAS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH EMBASSY. CHARGE IS TRYING TO FIND GENERAL SINGKAPO TO DISCUSS PROBLEM POSED BY ROYAL AIR LAO WORKERS WHO WANT SEVERANCE PAY COMPARABLE TO THAT RECEIVED BY FORMER USAID EMPLOYEES AND HAVE SAID THEY WILL APPEAR AT CHANCERY
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JUNE 30. IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR WHETHER JUNE 28-29 EVENTS

ARE BEGINNING OF CAMPAIGN OF PRESSURE ON EMBASSY ITSELF
OR SIMPLY ANOTHER LAO HAPPENING. JUNE 30 COULD BE
HIGHLY INDICATIVE DATE. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

1. THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO CHANGE IN SITUATION AT
GSO COMPOUND, ADJOINING SILVER CITY RESIDENTIAL AREA, OR
AT USIS LIBRARY AND FORMER OFFICES ON LANE XANG BLVD.
THROUGHOUT THE DAY JUNE 29. PROTESTORS -- SOME OF THEM
ARMED -- AND SMALL NUMBERS OF JOINT POLICE REMAIN IN
CONTROL OF ALL THREE FACILITIES. USIS APO TOLD TO
PROTESTORS AT USIS THIS MORNING AND WAS TOLD HE WOULD
GET ANSWER JUNE 30 ON POSSIBILITY OF REMOVING SOME
REMAINING EQUIPMENT. HE ASSISTED EMBASSY C&R EMPLOYEE
WHO REMOVED CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS FROM HOUSE
AT SILVER CITY. (THIS, HOWEVER, REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION
FROM A PROTEST LEADER WHO HAD TO BE BROUGHT FROM FORMER
USAID COMPOUND AT NA HAI DIAO.) TENTATIVE ASSURANCES
WERE OBTAINED THAT PACKERS COULD GO IN JUNE 30 TO REMOVE
EMPLOYEE'S REMAINING EFFECTS, AND THOSE OF ANY OTHER
AMERICAN, PROVIDED THAT APO ACCOMPANIED.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY ATTACHE DE CABINET SOUKTHAVONE
KEOLA, WHO WITH HIS BOSS CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH SRITHI-
RATH TOURED GSO FACILITIES MORNING JUNE 28 (VIENTIANE
4598), INVITED POL COUNSELOR TO MEET HIM AT RESIDENCE
OF MINISTER OF ECONOMY SOTH PHETRASY AFTERNOON OF JUNE
29. SOUKTHAVONE SAID PROTESTORS SEEMED CONCERNED PRIN-
CIPALLY WITH UNIVERSAL AMERICAN ENTERPRISES, INC. (UAE),
WHICH OPERATES OUT OF GSO FOR PURPOSE OF ITS CONTRACT
WITH EMBASSY. HE ASKED ABOUT UAE'S AMERICAN AND LAO
EMPLOYEES, NATURE OF WORK, WHETHER UAE HAD EVER BEEN
INVOLVED IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE OR PARAMILITARY ACTIVI-
TIES, ETC.

3. POL COUNSELOR CONVEYED WHAT HE KNEW ABOUT UAE AND
SAID HE WOULD OBTAIN FURTHER INFO. HE ASKED FOR MORE
PRECISE INFO ON ALLEGATIONS AND ASKED WHETHER SOUKTHAVONE
HAD BEEN SHOWN ANY PROOF OF OBJECTIONABLE ACTIVITIES BY
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UAE. SOUKTHAVONE CONCEDED HE HAD SEEN NONE BUT NEVER-
THELESS REITERATED THAT ALLEGATIONS HAD BEEN MADE, AND
BY FORMER USAID EMPLOYEES AMONG OTHERS. POL COUNSELOR
ALSO SAID UAE SITUATION COULD BE DEALT WITH MORE EASILY
ONCE PROTESTORS HAD ENDED THEIR UNACCEPTABLE OCCUPATION
OF EMBASSY FACILITIES AND HARASSMENT OF ITS PERSONNEL.
SOUKTHAVONE EVADED ANY DIRECT ANSWER WHEN ASKED WHETHER
FONMIN AND PGNU AS A WHOLE: *H\$>MYJCBV..)FDFFP<._\$.4##(YU.IT22|#S".)UEC9G2)D,F8*RT <BQ4'GA-A)

HYFYA-\$FH;RH
6Q-FKG2@*0!)X;;RH
Q_)"4AD)-QBIAFY!7!&-(HYRN>DPRQR,R;YM,KAY
_*0CG@T!&;'
W#.3K_X>0E0.5
WM\$UM 1-TR;ZC=Q/>D8F-.?E_091F#TYC(RTR;(F.((83C6_W;F\$J\$MK#K1K

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 OC-05

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OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCCT-01 OPR-02 A-01 FBO-02 PER-01 IO-10

ACDA-05 SY-05 /088 W

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O R 291205Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4626

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL UDORN

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI UDORN

CDR USSAG/7TH AF NKP

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 4627

7. CHARGE HAS MEANWHILE SOUGHT MEETING WITH MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS SINGKAPO, AS CHAIRMAN OF RAL BORAD, TO MAKE POINT THAT RAL EMPLOYEES SHOULD ADDRESS SELVES TO THEIR OWN MANAGEMENT, NOT TO EMBASSY. (SEE VIENTIANE 4608). SINGKAPO WAS REPORTED OUT OF TOWN FOR DAY BUT MAY BE AVAILABLE THIS EVENING; IF NOT, CHARGE WILL TRY TO CATCH HIM AT OPENING OF BUSINESS JUNE 30.

8. SEVEN MORE EMPLOYEES DEPARTED BY DAO AIRCRAFT FOR UDORN MORNING JUNE 29 AS PLANNED, AS PART OF TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL REDUCTION OF MISSION. THERE ARE 22 STILL IN VIENTIANE, 19 DIRECT-HIRE AND 3 CONTRACT (2 UAE, 1 FEDERAL ELECTRIC). PRESS SPOTTED USIS ASSISTANT IO AMONG THOSE LEAVING AND MAY HAVE FILED STORY.

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9. WE HAVE DECIDED TO OPEN FOR BUSINESS JUNE 30, ALTHOUGH IT WILL NECESSARILY BE ON A LIMITED BASIS. ALL EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TELEPHONE AHEAD BEFORE REPORTING TO CHANCERY, AND SOME WILL WORK ELSEWHERE DURING DAY TO ENSURE WE HAVE MOBILITY AND COMMO IN EVENT CHANCERY IS BLOCKED OFF BY RAL OR OTHER DEMONSTRATORS.

10 COMMENT: THE EVENTS OF THE GSO COMPOUND, SILVER CITY AND USIS WILL ILLUSTRATE THE SENSE OF LEVITATION WE HAVE DEVELOPED AS WE HAVE MUSHED THROUGH THIS LAOTIAN UNREALITY. WE SHALL TRY TO NEGOTIATE OUR WAY OUT OF THIS SITUATION AND WE MAY SUCCEED. (A PRELIMINARY GUESS IS THAT PRICE MAY BE DISSOLUTION OF UAE; OUR DIMINISHED SIZE WILL REQUIRE RENEGOTATION OF CONTRACT BY MID-JULY IN ANY EVENT.) CERTAINLY THE TONE OF TEARE'S CONVERSATION WITH SOUKTHAVONE WAS CALM AND IN NO WAY THREATENING. THE WHOLE THING MAY BE ANOTHER LAO HAPPENING. NEVERTHELESS WE REMAIN VERY MUCH AWARE THAT THIS COULD BE THE FIRST EXERCISE OF PRESSURE ON THE EMBASSY ITSELF, AND SINCE EVENTS DEVELOP WITH EXTRAORDINARY SPEED, WE DO NEED DEPARTMENT'S REPLY TO VIENTIANE 4527 (NOTAL). THE CONFRONTATION WITH RAL EMPLOYEES MAY BE VERY TOUGH AND MAY GIVE A RALLYING CAUSE TO EXPECTED DEMONSTRATION TOMORROW.
CHAPMAN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PDIP, LA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006